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FOL REPEAT OF MADRID 1703 TO SECSTATE LISBON INFO NATO USCINCEUR

PARIS RABAT MAR 12

QTE:

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP, PO

SUBJ: REACTION IN SPAIN TO PORTUGUESE

COUP ATTEMPT

REF: A. MADRID 1677 DTG 112135Z MAR 75

B. LISBON 1342 DTG 112147Z MAR 75

C. FBIS LD 112010

SUMMARY: SPANISH MEDIA HAVE PROVIDED EXTENSIVE INFO RE
DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL. GOS ISSUED STATEMENT LATE
MARCH 11 DENYING IMPLICATION OF SPAIN IN EVENTS AND
REAFFIRMING TOTAL ADHERENCE TO NON-INTERFERENCE. PORTUGUESE
EMBASSY RELEASED STATEMENT MARCH 11 REFERRING TO "COUNTER-
REVOLUTIONARY ADVENTURE" AND ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT'S
SUCCESS IN CONTROLLING SITUATION. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS
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INTERVIEW GIVEN MARCH 10 BY SOARES TO SPANISH JOURNALIST

IN WHICH HE DID NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY OF COUNTER COUP.
SOARES SAID PORTUGAL IS "MARCHING IN A SOCIALIST
DIRECTION". HE PREDICTED ELECTION RESULTS WOULD RESULT
IN CONTINUANCE OF THREE PARTIES IN PRESENT COALITION
AND REMAINING IN POWER AFTER APRIL 12. END SUMMARY.

1. SPANISH MEDIA HAVE PROVIDED ON-THE SPOT COVERAGE OF
DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL INCLUDING TELECONS RELAYED BY
TV EVENING MARCH 11. NEWSPAPERS HAVE FRONT-PAGE ACCOUNTS
OF ATTEMPTED COUP AND PROVIDE BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON
ENTIRE HISTORY OF APRIL 25 MILITARY UPRISING. ONLY MEDIA
COMMENTARY HAS BEEN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN "LA VANGUARDIA"
(INDEPENDENT) WHICH SEES "LEFTIST MILITARY ELEMENTS"
STRENGTHENED BY EVENTS AND CONSERVATIVE FORCES EXPOSED
TO "NEW ATTACKS AND PERHAPS LIMITATIONS". EDITORIAL
SPECULATES THAT CONSERVATIVE FORCES MAY HAVE FALLEN "INTO
TRAP" SET BY OPPONENTS IN AFM. (MFA OFFICIAL ALSO
SPECULATED ALONG SAME LINES, BUT ADMITTED THAT HE HAD NOT
SUPPORTING EVIDENCE.) NATIONAL MOVEMENT PAPER "ARRIBA"
HEADLINED ARTICLE DATEDLINE NEW YORK THAT "COUP FAVORED
THE COMMUNISTS".

2. "ARRIBA" IS ONLY NEWSPAPER TO CARRY REFERENCES TO STATE-
MENTS BY COPCON LEADER GENERAL CARVALHO IMPLYING THAT U.S.
AMBASSADOR WAS SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN ABORTED COUP AND HIS
PERSONAL SAFETY WAS IN DOUBT (REF B). PRESSS ACCOUNT ALSO
REFERS TO TELECON BETWEEN AMB AND GENERAL CARVALHO AS WELL AS
EMBASSY STATEMENT TO AGENCE FRANCE PRESS TO EFFECT
"THAT EMBASSY WAS CONVINCED THAT GENERAL CARVALHO AND GOP
WERE CAPABLE OF GUARANTEEING SECURITY OF COUNTRY."

3. GOS ISSUED STATEMENT LATE MAR 11 DENYING ANY SPANISH
INVOLVEMENT IN RECENT EVENTS AS ALLEGED BY REPORTS
ORIGINATING IN LISBON (REF C). STATEMENT REITERATES LONG-
STANDING SPANISH POLICY OF NOT INTERFERING IN INTERNAL
AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY AND MAINTAINING THIS POLICY
WITH PORTUGAL. OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY "CIFRA" ALSO
REPORTED MEETING HELD BETWEEN SPANISH MILITARY ATTACHE
AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO VICTOR ALVES IN WHICH
LATTER SAID THAT GOP WAS CONFIDENT OF EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOR
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OF SPAIN WITH RESPECT TO EVENTS.

4. PORTUGUESE EMBASSY IN MADRID ISSUED STATEMENT PUBLISHED
IN LOCAL PRESS MAR 12 DESCRIBING EFFORTS OF AIR FORCE
AND ARMY FORCES TO TAKE OVER LIGHT ARTILLERY REGIMENT NO 1.
INCIDENT DESCRIBED AS "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ADVENTURE
LED BY TREASON OF SOME LEADERS WHO DRAGGED ALONG
SOLDIERS AND NON-COMS WITH FALSE AND PROVOCATIVE INFO".

SATATEMENT SAID THAT SITUATION WAS UNDER CONTROL AND, AS
STATED BY COSTA GOMES, WOULD END UP BY STRENGTHENING
ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT.

5. LOCAL PRESS CONTAINED INTERVIEW GIVEN TO "HOY" (LOCAL PAPER OF BADAJOZ, ADJACENT TO PORTUGAL) MAR 10 BY SOCIALIST LEADER AND FONMIN MARIO SOARES. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF A COUP, SOARES REPLIED "I CANNOT SAY IN A TOTAL AND AFFIRMATIVE MANNER THAT A POSSIBLE COUNTER-COUP CAN BE DISCOUNTED: THE PREVIOUS REGIME WAS IN POWER ALMOST A HALF A CENTURY AND CLEARLY HAS ROOTS". HE SAID UNSTABLE ECONOMIC SITUATION WAS PROPITIOUS FOR DISCONTENT. HE SPECULATED THAT SCHEDULED ELECTIONS WOULD RESULT IN 25-30 PERCENT FOR RIGHT-WING PARTIES, 30 PERCENT FOR HIS PARTY, 25 PERCENT FOR PPD, AND 15-20 FOR COMMUNISTS AND ITS FOLLOWERS. SUCH AN OUTCOME, HE SAID, WOULD INSURE PERMANENCE IN POWER OF THREE PARTIES IN PRESENT COALITION. MOREOVER, HE ADDED, OUTCOME OF APRIL 12 CONSTITUENT ASSEMPLY ELECTIONS DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY HAVE IMPACT ON PRESENT COALITION GOVT. HE DESCRIBED PRESENT PROCESS AS "PREDEMOCRATIC" SAYING THAT NOBODY IN PORTUGAL WANTED A DICTATORSHIP.

6. ACCORDING TO MEDIA, REGULAR TRAIN SERVICE WAS NOT INTERRUPTED BETWEEN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL NIGHT OF MAR 11/12 ALTHOUGH BORDER TRAFFIC WAS CLOSED IN EARLY AFTER-NOON. AIR TRAFFIC BETWEEN MADRID AND LISBON, WHICH WAS CANCELLED BEGINNING 12 NOON MAR 11, HAS BEEN RE-ESTABLISHED. ACCORDIG TO SPANISH CORRESPONDENT LOCATED IN PORTUGUESE BORDER TOWN OF ELVAS, THERE WERE DEMONSTRATIONS LED BY THREE PARTIES WITH FACILITIES IN TOWN (PS, PCP, AND PPD) AND CORRESPONDENT REPORTED THAT THERE WERE CRIES OF "SPINOLA IS A TRAITOR" WHEN NEWS WAS RELEASED THAT HE HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REACHED SPAIN. IT IS REPORTED FROM LISBON THAT SPINOLA HAS ASKED FOR EXILE IN BRAZIL.

7. COMMENT: SPAIN HAS CONSISTENTLY SOUGHT NON-INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL PORTUGUESE AFFARIS SINCE APRIL 25, 1974 MILITARY UPRISING. IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT IN PAST FEW WEEKS BECAUSE OF A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS. SPINOLA'S ARRIVAL IN SPAIN COULD WELL PROVIDE ANOTHER PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO MILITARY AUTHORITIES, THERE IS NO SPECIAL ALERT IN SPANISH ARMED FORCES, WHICH IS ANOTHER SIGN OF GOS EFFORT TO MAINTAIN APPEARANCE OF NORMALCY IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL
STABLER UNQTE INGERSOLL

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